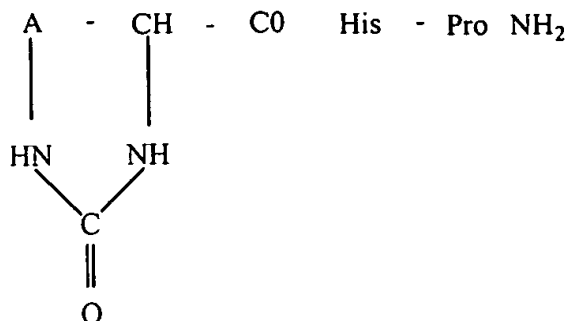


B² cont.



in which A is a bivalent group consisting of a linear carbon chain formed from 2 carbon atoms, which chain is substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a functional group comprising at least one sulphur atom and a functional group comprising at least one oxygen atom selected from carboxyl, acyl, hydroxyl and alkoxy group.

See the Appendix for the changes. The terms underlined were added to the claims. The terms bracketed were cancelled from the claims.

Please cancel claims 12, 13 and 16.

Please add the following new claims 18 through 27 as follows:

-- 18. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein R³-N^αH- is an α-amino acid.

19. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein R³-N^αH- is an essential α-amino acid.

B3C₀+

20. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein R3-N^αH- is tryptophane.

21. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein R3-N^αH- is methionine.

22. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein the linear carbon chain is substituted by a functional group comprising at least one oxygen atom.

23. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 22, wherein, the functional group comprising at least one oxygen atom is selected from carboxyl, acyl, hydroxyl and alkoxy group.

24. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein the linear carbon chain is substituted with a functional group containing sulphur.

25. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 24, wherein the functional group containing sulphur is a mercapto group.

26. N^ω-Carboxyalkylcarbamoyl-α,ω-diamino acid as claimed in claim 7, wherein the linear carbon chain is a polymethylene group.